



# NEWS Release

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LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL  
POLICY OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 5, 2014  
CONTACT: Michael Kustudia (406) 542-5533

## **Montana State Parks Releases Revised NEPA Combined Notice for Milltown State Park Development**

(Missoula, MT) - Montana State Parks, a division of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), announced today the release of a revised combined notice related to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental review of the initial development of Milltown State Park.

This revised notice corrects a previous notice issued by Missoula County on January 26, 2014 that incorrectly identified Missoula County as the Responsible Entity. FWP is the Responsible Entity for the project. These changes are reflected in the Final Environmental Review Record/Environmental Assessment.

The combined notice also signifies the agency's intent to now request that HUD release the federal funds and FWP's finding that the project has no significant impact on the human environment.

The proposed project, which is primarily funded through a grant from the Montana Natural Resource Damage Program, has also received a federal appropriation of \$730,500 through the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This federal funding triggered the NEPA environmental review process.

An Environmental Review Record documenting review of all project activities in respect to impacts on the environment has been made by FWP. This Environmental Review Record is on file at the Region 2 FWP office, 3201 Spurgin Road, Missoula, MT. 59804, and is available for public examination and copying upon request between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5 p.m. or by appointment. The public can view the draft EA electronically, at :

[http://stateparks.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/environmental-assessments/pn\\_0031.html](http://stateparks.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/environmental-assessments/pn_0031.html).

All interested agencies, groups and persons who wish to provide comment on the Combined Notice are invited to submit written comments for consideration by FWP to: Milltown State Park c/o FWP Region 2, 3201 Spurgin Rd., Missoula, MT 59804. Public comments must be received by Monday, September 22 at 5 p.m. The public is alternatively invited to comment

online at [stateparks.mt.gov](http://stateparks.mt.gov) by clicking "submit comments," or via the direct link: <http://stateparks.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/recent.html>. All comments so received will be considered and FWP will not request release of funds or take any administrative action on the project prior to September 22.

Montana State Parks' January 2014 environmental assessment of the Milltown project also meets all requirements set forth under the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). That environmental review concluded with a Decision Notice issued in April, 2014.

*Join us in celebrating Montana State Parks 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2014! Visit Montana State Parks ([stateparks.mt.gov](http://stateparks.mt.gov)) and enjoy camping, hiking, fishing, swimming, boating and more and discover some of the greatest natural and cultural treasures on earth.*

*Download our new APP! [Montana State Parks Outdoor Guide](#)*



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A division of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
[stateparks.mt.gov](http://stateparks.mt.gov)

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**NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND  
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS**

September 5, 2014  
Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks  
3201 Spurgin Road  
Missoula, MT 59804  
406-542-5533

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks. This notice corrects a previous notice (January 26, 2014) that incorrectly identified Missoula County as the Responsible Entity. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is the Responsible Entity. These changes are reflected in the Final Environmental Review Record.

**REQUEST FOR THE RELEASE OF FUNDS**

On or after September 22, 2014, the above-named Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks will request the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to release Economic Development Initiative (EDI) funds provided under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010 (P.L. 111-117), and the Conference Report accompanying the Act (H.R. 111-366), for the project Milltown State Park Development. Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks proposes to complete trail and amenity development at the new state park at the confluence of the Blackfoot River and Clark Fork River.

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks has determined that such request for release of funds will not constitute an action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and accordingly the above-named Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks has decided not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

The reasons for the decision not to prepare such statement are as follows: (1) the project site has been reclaimed from submersion under the Milltown Reservoir as part of the federal Milltown Superfund Site restoration; (2) consideration based on consultation with the public and relevant authorities indicates no negative impact on flora, fauna, water quality, air quality, historic resources, or other aspects of the human environment.

An Environmental Review Record documenting review of all project activities in respect to impacts on the environment has been made by the above-named Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. This Environmental Review Record is on file at the office of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 3201 Spurgin Road, Missoula, Mt. 59804, and is available for public examination and copying upon request between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5 p.m. or by appointment. The public can view the draft EA electronically, at [http://stateparks.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/environmental-assessments/pn\\_0031.html](http://stateparks.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/environmental-assessments/pn_0031.html).



No further environmental review of such project is proposed to be conducted prior to the request for release of HUD project funds.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

All interested agencies, groups and persons disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks to: Milltown State Park c/o FWP Region 2, 3201 Spurgin Rd., Missoula, MT 59804. Public comments must be received by Monday, September 22 at 5 p.m. The public is alternatively invited to comment online at [stateparks.mt.gov](http://stateparks.mt.gov) by clicking "submit comments," or via the direct link: <http://stateparks.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/recent.html>. All comments so received will be considered and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks will not request release of funds or take any administrative action on the project prior to the date specified in the preceding sentence.

### **RELEASE OF FUNDS**

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks will undertake the project described above with EDI funds provided by HUD under The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010 (P.L. 111-117). Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is certifying to HUD that Jeff Hagener, in his official capacity as Director and Environmental Certifying Officer of the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision-making, and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect on the certification is that upon its approval, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks may use the EDI funds and HUD will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

### **OBJECTIONS TO STATE RELEASE OF FUNDS**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will accept objections to its release of funds and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks' certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) that the certification was not in fact executed by the chief executive officer or other officer approved by the Department of Commerce; (b) that the applicant's environmental review record for the project indicates omission of a required decision, finding, or step applicable to the project in the environmental review process; (c) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental design. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and may be addressed to: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Region VIII Office, 8ADE, 1670 Broadway Street, Colorado 80202-4801. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.